

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /071 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6777

INFO USUN NEW YORK 353

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 2595

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, UN, CU, RQ, US, ML

SUBJ: COMMITTEE OF 24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO

REF: USUN 1803 (STATE 135687)

1. BECAUSE MALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IS DIFFICULT TO GET TO SEE, AMBASSADOR TOOK OCCASION DURING APPOINTMENT WITH HIM ON SOUTHERN AFRICA JUNE 17 TO MENTION IN GENERAL U.S. DESIRE TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24 AGAIN THIS YEAR. AMBASSADOR POINTED TO NOVEMBER 1976 ELECTIONS, SAYING WINNING PARTY FAVORED STATEHOOD, OTHER MAJOR PARTY WANTED CONTINUATION OF COMMONWEALTH STATUS, AND PARTY SEEKING INDEPENDENCE GAINED ONLY SIX PERCENT OF VOTES. THE UNITED STATES WAS READY TO DO WHATEVER THE PUERTO RICANS WANTED, BUT IN ANY EVENT IT HAD LONG AGO FULFILLED REQUIREMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE MATTER.

2. WITH A SLIGHT SMILE FOREIGN MINISTER CISSOKHO SAID THAT SO FAR AS MALI WAS CONCERNED, THE STATUS OF PUERTO RICO WAS A QUESTION FOR THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE. MALI HAD NOTED THE SMALL PERCENTAGE DESIRING INDEPENDENCE. IN ANY CASE, HE REPEATED, IT
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ALL DEPENDED ON THE PUERTO RICANS THEMSELVES.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER ALLUDED TO EARLIER DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND MALI OVER PUERTO RICO ISSUE, INDICATING VAGUELY A DESIRE TO AVOID THEM IN FUTURE. AMBASSADOR RESPONDED FIRMLY THAT WE VERY DEFINITELY WANTED NO SUCH PROBLEM IN U.S.-MALIAN RELATIONS.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER THEN SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER A SMALL SUGGESTION. HE WENT ON IN MOST ELLIPTICAL TERMS TO SAY THAT UNITED STATES SHOULD DO NOTHING IN COMMITTEE OF 24 TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT PUERTO RICAN ELECTIONS HAD BEEN RIGGED, OR OPPONENTS WOULD BE FORCED TO MAKE THE CHARGE. HE QUICKLY ADDED THAT HE HIMSELF WAS NOT SAYING THEY HAD BEEN RIGGED. AMBASSADOR EMPHATICALLY ASSURED HIM THAT THEY HAD BEEN FREE AND HONEST. (WE ASSUME THAT CUBANS HAVE USED "RIGGED" LINE WITH MALIANS.)

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH FOREIGN MINISTER MADE NO STATEMENT OR COMMITMENT CONCERNING MALI'S VOTING POSITION IN COMMITTEE OF 24, CLEARLY WAITING TO SEE HOW SITUATION EVOLVES, HIS GENERAL ATTITUDE GIVES RISE TO SOME HOPE THAT MALI MAY BE LESS UNHELPFUL ON PUERTO RICO THIS YEAR THAN IN PAST. STILL TO BE RECKONED WITH, HOWEVER, ARE BOUBACAR KANTE, MALI'S FREE-WHEELING AND RADICAL PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UNITED NATIONS, AND THE PRESSURES OF THE HOSTILE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE IN NEW YORK.
BYRNE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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